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Subscribers are earnestly requested to make complaints at The Times office of all neglect to deliver papers promptly and in a courteous manner. The Times proposes to give subscribers satisfactory service, and all complaints will receive prompt attention.

IS SUICIDE EPIDEMIC?

Has Col. Ingersoll's defense of suicide driven men and women to think less seriously of life, and to find a surer way from their sorrows by a plunge into the unknown? Perhaps it may be merely coincidence, but it is certainly a fact that since the publication of the celebrated article in favor of the celebrated suicide, voluntary deaths have multiplied more than their usual space in the newspapers. Yesterday all parts of the country furnished their victims, and the motives which impelled them to fly from life they knew of were as varied as the means they employed.

The study of suicide, considered from a psychological standpoint, is an interesting one. It is the belief of men who have given the matter careful investigation that there are waves of suicide, that in a measure it is epidemic, just as is any other form of disease. Whether there is a suicide microbe has yet to be discovered, but that persons are more prone to self-destruction at some times than at others is self-evident.

It might naturally be supposed that the percentage of voluntary deaths in rural communities would be the minimum, but statistics show that this belief is erroneous. In the cities, want and hunger drive men and women to seek death; in the country, the tedium of living seems to be the cause.

So long as there is hunger and privation; so long as men abuse their trust; so long as women suffer for the crimes of others; so long, in short, as society is the complex machine it now is, there will be suicides. Though it is generally a confession of cowardice or crime, there comes a time when the only avenue of escape, the only hope of peace, is through the pistol or poison. Perhaps, after all, they are less to be censured than to be pitied.

THE CASE OF "DR." HOWARD.

It is to the credit of the grand jury of Fairfax county, Va., that two indictments have been returned against "Dr." Grady Staunton Howard, charging that elusive individual with obtaining money and diamonds from the Spectator family. The history of Howard's operations have been a matter of newspaper comment for some time, and it now appears that he will suffer judgment from another tribunal than the public press.

This man Howard has played upon foolish women and weak-minded old men all over the country, and his soft sensibility has netted him many a hard dollar. His latest place of business was at Quantico Hall, Fairfax county, Va., where he established a "school of philosophy," that was a cross between the old doctor's haunt at Brook Farm, Massachusetts, and the modern place of shrines at Concord, in the same State. Under Howard's close supervision, the sweet titillation of their ecstatic senses and the demoralization of their pocketbooks.

Howard was a robber of minds as well as of money. He is responsible for many broken homes and broken hearts, and at least one of his victims looks out on a world that she might have enjoyed through the iron bars of a lunatic asylum. There is no law to punish him for the damage he has wrought in the minds of his followers, for justice cannot gauge such subtleties even though the concrete results are perfectly plain; but there is a law to punish him for his thefts reckoned in dollars and cents, and the courts of Virginia propose to put that law into effect.

The case of this charlatan is remarkably interesting because of its semi-psychological aspect. Here is a man who was not self-deceived and whose leadership was not dependent on the self-generated enthusiasm of the neophyte, for Howard never pretended to believe his vagaries except in the presence of his proselytes. He merely saw in this modern groping after mystery and in these foolish renderings of occult nonsense a magnificent chance to make a living. Looking at him in this light he is the champion confidence man of the century and a crook whose style of procedure is all but unknown to the police annals of this country.

That lean and lank gentleman of the cloth who preyed on the philanthropic Mrs. Weller in "Pittsburg Papers" was a mild fac simile of Howard. It will be remembered that Sam Weller and his father caught the reverend abbeys and held his head under the generous spout of an English pump. It is a pity that the old ducking law does not exist in Fairfax county, Va.

RECORDED TAYLOR'S DILEMMA.

Recorder of Deeds C. H. G. Taylor finds himself this morning in the somewhat torrid condition of the man who is between the frying-pan and the fire. He is outwitted by the probability that the Civil Service Commission will file charges asserting that he has aided and abetted in soliciting campaign contributions from colored government employees. Mr. Taylor does not know whether to deny the charges in toto or to attempt to defend himself by admitting the truth of the report and pointing to others who are equally as guilty.

Hardly lies the perplexity of Mr. Taylor's position. He sees that the lines of evidence have been drawn tightly around him and that there is little prospect of escape in that quarter. On the other hand, he is possessed of enough intelligence to realize that the guilt of one man is not lessened by the culpability of his neighbor.

Mr. Taylor's lieutenants have not been so clear-headed. They have risen to the defense of their leader with the cry of "persecution" on their lips. He has, they say, been seized out of his office and must bear the brunt of an attack that should be made all along the line. Mr. Taylor's apologists have also shown a creditable, but somewhat suspicious, haste in their denunciations of

the Afro-American bureau operated by Mr. Still.

It is to be hoped that the whole matter will at least do something to again agitate the reform which the commission has in charge. There can be little doubt but that the widening of the civil service means the improvement of the public service. The spoils system may be an evil inseparable from party government, but there is no necessity for these bureaus that hold awards over the heads of department clerks and weaken their usefulness by a species of terrorism.

SENATOR HARRIS—THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN THERE A LONG WHILE.

Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, chief of the Senate Democratic camp, by virtue of the fact that he is the Man-Who-Has-Been-There-A-Long-While, yesterday gave us another proof of his magnificent capacity for leadership.

The impression prevails in the country that there is nothing left for the Senators to do but to pick up their togas, shake the stray grains of sugar from the folds, and get back to their respective States as soon as possible. Of course it is necessary for a few to remain and adjourn, but for that important duty a corporal's guard will suffice. The palatial care of the Man-Who-Has-Been-There-A-Long-While would not permit such desertion. No indeed. If all his braves desert it will deprive the chief of the exquisite pleasure of leading the long file along the legislative warpath.

And so Senator Harris wanted the absent Senators brought back by force. He discovered that moral suasion over the telegraph wires was long on dignity but short on results. The rough and ready physical suasion used extensively among the hardy mountaineers of his native state appeared to him about the proper thing. But even that was scarcely feasible without the regulation film-look rifles and a convenient tree behind which to shoot. The finale was a flat failure, and Mr. Harris condescended to shut up Senatorial shop for the time being.

Dropping the mental picture conveyed by the title of The Man-Who-Has-Been-There-A-Long-While and looking back on the course of Senator Harris all through the tariff discussion, it appears that he has also played the role of schoolmaster. He has not been such a schoolmaster as Senator Jones, of Arkansas, would have made by reason of his possession of an unfailing loyalty to principle tempered with a good nature equally unfailing, but he has made one of those schoolmasters of the early New England type. Answer, reason, wax-like retort; these have been the three leeches to his generously exercised instrument of flagellation.

Is it any wonder, then, that the boys wanted to go home yesterday? Is it any wonder that this Congressional pedagogue from the rural districts of Tennessee cannot keep his pupils together after hours?

Mr. Chicago Tribune of Tuesday printed an editorial on "The Follies of Prohibition." Last Sunday it printed an editorial on "The Follies of Drunkenness." We can safely presume, then, that it takes a Tribune editorial writer just two days to sobor up.

With a fresh memory of the announcement several days ago that the King of Siam had died, we are somewhat consoled by reading in a Western daily of Wednesday that "The King of Siam is writing a book."

Now that Hon. Benjamin Harrison has had his whiskers cropped, the logical candidate for Vice President on the Republican ticket is undoubtedly Senator Redfield Proctor.

Mr. Wagon's critics remind us of those venerable Spanish gentlemen of Queen Isabella's court who thought that they had the laugh on Christopher Columbus.

Was it not for the failure of the peach crop Arthur Pue Gorman's success in sugar would have been provided for a big Maryland preserve outfit.

With Mr. Flower's bar and Mr. Morton's bar in the New York gubernatorial campaign, the outcome will largely depend on the size of the respective bung-holes.

We suspect that the Hon. Mariotti Brocton, of Pennsylvania, is laying a ground-work of campaign verses for a place among the coming American immortals.

That continuous buzzing sound in the direction of the State of New York is merely Thomas C. Platt quietly at work bifurcating more timber.

Tex news of cholera in London will undoubtedly lead the New York chapters to apply for a quarantine around that city.

It is a cruel brand of New Yorker who would ask Senator Hall's assistance in securing one of those income tax collector jobs.

It is said that secret agents of the Japanese are attempting to introduce American gun caissons in the Chinese army.

The Iowa Methodist conference is inclined to the belief that the hard times have put blowblows in the collection plate.

Was should President Havemeyer pay \$60,000 for a Rembrandt. We can't remember any Senator of that name.

While waiting for the income tax Uncle Russell Sage is indulging in a few boxing lessons with his conscience.

No less an authority than the esteemed Rochester Herald informs us of Gilbert's new opera "Pinafore."

There is a tendency among citizens of Chicago to call it the New Bedford strike.

Indications point to another exercise of the administration letter-writing habit.

China's financiers are out for tails of coin. Japan's generals are out for pig tails.

By Mr. Bristlehead has not yet denied that Pullman matrimonial rumor.

Petrel's New Commander.

Lieut. Commander A. R. Couden, who has been attached to the Bureau of Ordnance in an expert capacity for the past year, has been assigned to the command of the Petrel in Alaskan waters, and will sail for his post about the last of next month.

They're Very Susceptible.

CLOAK ROOM AND GALLERY.

Acting Chaplain McCarthy made a rather pointed remark in his opening prayer for the Senate yesterday, but of course it must be assumed that the reverend gentleman was entirely innocent of any intention of reflecting on that body. After dwelling on the greatness of the Senate and beseeching protection and guidance for its members during the recess following the coming adjournment, came the fervent and all too true declaration, "O, Lord, we are all bought with a price." Several Senators chuckled away to themselves at his apt remark and the general levity of the Senate for a few minutes was very much like that of a batch of school boys at their morning chapel.

Hon. Washington Taylor, of this city, was visited the other day by a delegation of itinerant Populists who offered him the Congressional nomination for the Sixth Congressional district of Maryland at the same time indicated to him that they would like to be offered something in return. They were informed by Mr. Taylor that he did not want to go to Congress, and furthermore, that he was not a Marylander, although he owned a farm up in Montgomery county.

"Never mind that," spoke up the leader of the merry band. "A man from Timbuctoo can be elected by a vote of 200,000. We have a plurality of 3,000 over Democrats and Republicans." But Mr. Taylor did not listen to their sweet words, and the Populist nomination for "the sixth" is still up at auction, with the bidders very few.

When the motion of Senator Harris, that the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate be directed to "compel" the attendance of absent Senators, with several accents on the last syllable, Col. Bright came out into the marble room with a blank expression on his face. "I think I shall have to come to the Senate," he said, "and even then I doubt if I could get a quorum."

The Texas nominating conventions are still doing their work in a very Texas way. Hon. J. O. Abbott's peripatetic gathering have not chosen him yet, although they have sat in three towns, but they are not sure whether to send him back. As they are now at his home, Hillsboro, it is thought he will capture the necessary votes.

Mr. Kilgore has heard and said, but says "it costs right smart to send telegrams from Texas, and our people are not wasting money." He adds that an unusual number of young men have to come to Texas to get an education this year, and says it is attributed down in Texas to the attractive legend of Breckinridge and Pollard.

Both Democratic and Republican Congressional campaign committees are now getting down to work for the coming campaign. Senator Faulkner, who is in charge of the work of his party, is now in the city, and will make a vigorous effort to keep the House of Representatives in the control of the Democrats.

The principal work at this time consists in the preparation of the campaign book intended for stump speakers. At present it is about half completed. It will be much more elaborate than usual, and will show the vote of each county in the State, and the vote of each district in the House of Representatives, for the last four Congressional elections. Maps so shaded as to show the political complexion of all the States, and the work of the different parties in each have been prepared.

The committee does not expect to send out speakers, and each Congressional candidate will be left to secure his own Where there is need, however, special efforts are to be made to supply it. Large bundles of documents will be sent for distribution through most of the districts.

Chairman May is acting in an advisory capacity to the Republican campaign committee, of which Secretary Olds is in charge. The latter is now in the city, and has a campaign text book, and have been much active in the circulation of documents. They claim to have sent out somewhat over 2,000,000 copies of documents, and to have supplied 100,000 "place notes" to newspapers all over the country. This committee has also carefully studied the field, and will be ready to supply speakers where a weak spot is detected.

Altogether the prospects are that this is to be a very lively campaign and one of "education."

There is considerable agitation in the House over Senator Hill's anti-marijuana bill passed by the Senate a few days ago. Some of the Democrats claim it is very anti-democratic in its provisions, and should never be allowed to become a law.

Congressman Warner, of New York, declared yesterday that the provisions whereby a suspected person may be taken into custody by the immigration bureau, purely through the agency of the executive branches of the government, without a judicial inquiry into the merits of the case, is simply the most dangerous of the proceedings, is exceedingly dangerous. "Beside it," he declared yesterday, "the Russian deportation system to Siberia is absolutely humane."

Many other expressions of a similar character were heard during the day.

Senator Dubois, of Idaho, and Senator Smith, of New Jersey, who are invariably paired with each other, have been seen since Mr. Smith's election to the Senate, are nearly of the same age, having been born within two weeks of each other. Any body looking at the two would not wonder at the conclusion without any hesitation that Mr. Smith was ten years the older. Both, however, are among the youngest men in the Senate, being only forty and forty-one years of age.

The two Senators are alike in a great many respects besides being practically twins. Both are business men with ability and an unusual capacity for study. Both are, and probably have been, in the habit of reading all over Senator Smith's head for his tariff position, he is considered the best man in Jersey to draw both votes.

"When I go into a campaign," said a Republican Congressman from one of the Western States, "where the people are more directly interested in their own welfare than the generally recognized Republican party principles, I always try to enter to the merit of my own party on some other issue than the tariff, which does not especially concern them, and which they know a good deal of some kind to the Populist, and at the same time. The last time I went on the stump I found my Democratic rival laying great stress on tariff reform, and making great promises to help him out. He was very successful in helping him out, but he had struck the wrong key. To the people out in the farming sections of the West the tariff discussion is hardly a new issue. They are interested in the homestead laws, and I found that all the land legislation favorable to the farmer and prospective settler was proposed and enacted by the Republican party. I suggested some improvements in that direction, and announced that if I was sent to Congress it would be my principal effort to secure such reforms. The lines were worked splendidly, and a campaign is not to hard on old party doctrines, but find some live issue in which the people are interested and make your campaign on that."

Peace—Why is America studying French and German so diligently?

Carson—He is ambitious to be an American dramatist.—Truth.

Now the Next.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Is there anybody else who would like to sit in a little poker game with Senator Arthur P. Gorman, of Maryland?

A Division of Labor.

(From the Atlantic City.)

For every man who works there are three or four men who both him by trying to sell him something.

Another Prediction.

(From the Atlanta Constitution.)

LOCAL NEWS OF ALL SORTS

The Weather Today.

Increasing cloudiness, but probably without rain; southerly winds.

To Force a Sale—Mary J. Pollard and Richard D. Pollard brought suit in the equity court yesterday against Kate E. Lybrand, Harry Lybrand, Catharine Cook, and others, seeking to recover a claim against the estate of William J. Work. The complainant says that Work owned real estate known as Lot No. 40, in square 502, in Morse Kelly's subdivision, partly improved by a brick dwelling which rents at \$40 per month; that a one-fourth interest in the same was sold on August 15, 1894, at \$1,250 nominally, but that this sale was made only to hinder creditors from execution of judgment; that the property is still owned by Work. Therefore, it is asked that the real estate be sold and the proceeds paid to the complainant. The case is set for trial on September 4, 1894, at 10 o'clock.

Marriage Licenses—Licenses to marry were issued yesterday to the following: William C. Kemp and Etta J. Moore, both of Claybank, Va. Elsie Banks and Mary E. Paulson, both of Washington. George W. Lybrand and Virginia Rose, both of Washington. James Owens, of this city, and Mary E. Baker, of Alexandria, Va. Benjamin B. Smith and Edith J. Chanley, both of Alexandria, Va. James H. Petty, of Alexandria, Va. and Lizzie Penn, of Charles county, Md. John B. Brown and Olivia Walker, both of Washington.

The Grassy Streets of Baltimore.

First Washington Gamble—See about those Baltimore kids that skipped out for New York?

Second Washington Gamble—Now! what for?

First Washington Gamble—Wanted to see de signs of a city.

Two Couples United—Judge Cole yesterday granted two divorces. One was to Robert W. Wright, of Washington, and Mary E. Wright, of this city. The other was to John H. Gainsborough, of this city, and Mary E. Gainsborough, of this city.

Real Estate Transfers—Transactions in real estate yesterday were recorded as follows: William H. Wright, of Washington, to John H. Gainsborough, of this city, for \$10,000. Elizabeth Browning and John W. Browning, of this city, to John H. Gainsborough, of this city, for \$10,000. John H. Gainsborough, of this city, to John H. Gainsborough, of this city, for \$10,000.

Investigation of Recorder Taylor Continued by the Civil Service Commission.

The Civil Service Commission resumed its investigation of the charges against Recorder of Deeds C. H. Taylor yesterday. The commissioners have determined to continue the investigation with absolute secrecy, and a number of witnesses said to have received assessment letters signed by Taylor, representing the Negro National Democratic League, were examined at length behind closed doors.

Crime and Casualties—Police-detective Hamilton, who was yesterday in difficulty about a check for \$100,000, paid by the city of Washington, was found today in the city of Washington, and he had no visible means of support was sent to the police station by an officer.

Charles McKenney, Thomas West, and John Bates were yesterday held in \$500 bonds for failing to appear in court to answer to a charge of perjury in giving their testimony in the case of James McPherson, who was recently convicted of keeping a gambling place at Hillsdale.

Robert D. Gray, who was arrested on a charge of passing a bogus check for \$10,000, was held in \$300 bonds for the action of the grand jury by Judge Mills.

Cal Bray, colored, a walking bar room, who sold liquor from his pockets, was yesterday fined \$400 or six months in jail by Judge Mills.

William Gase and Joseph Neuhoff, who are charged with running a speakeasy in the Eighth precinct, yesterday demanded jury trials, and their cases were continued by Judge Mills until next week.

Charles Owens, colored, aged twenty years, was arrested last night on a charge of breaking into the house of William Harlow, also colored, in Diamond and Adams, and stealing a lot of clothing and other articles, valued at \$60.

Of Recent Development.

"It seems," said the funny fellow, "that the deeds of Mr. C. H. Taylor."

"And it also appears," said his friend, "that Mr. Still's bureau has grown rather loud."

Christian Schneider Retires—The business partnership of Schneider & Berens, the well-known bakers on E street, has been dissolved. Mr. Christian Schneider, the senior partner, is retiring from active business life. The business will be continued under the firm name of William Berens & Sons, the partners being William Berens, Henry Berens, and William Berens, Jr.

New Trial for Dr. Leon—Application was made by Attorney Crait yesterday before Judge Cole for a hearing in an argument for a new trial in the case of Dr. Leon. The application was granted, and the hearing set for Saturday.

Agricultural Chemists in Session—The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists held its eleventh annual meeting yesterday in the lecture room of the National Museum. The session will continue today and to-morrow. The association is composed of State and municipal chemists, having control of agricultural and food products. The national committee relate closely with the local analysts and the best processes for detecting adulteration in foods. While the technical discussions have little interest for the public, the result of the deliberations of the convention are intimately related to the public welfare.

Wheaton's Mystery Unsolved—Detectives are still investigating the horse and buggy mystery near Wheaton, Md., as reported in the Times of last week. The case seems to be as far from being solved as ever. It is now thought that from a paper found near the buggy it may belong to some one at Elkton, Md., and inquiries have been sent to that place.

Looking for John T. Knight—The police department is looking for John T. Knight, who was arrested on Tuesday night by Detective Boardman on the charge of bigamy, and who escaped from that officer. It is alleged that Knight was married to Miss Mary Jane Watkins, of Baltimore, in 1859, and subsequently deserted her. Later, it is said, he married a lady in this city.

Capt. B. D. Devereux, Republican nominee for Congress in the First West Virginia district, is at the National Hotel.

J. W. Kates, general superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, whose headquarters are in Richmond, was in this city yesterday. He says the company will not extend its lines in the South any farther until some time in the spring of next year.

Mrs. C. F. Scott and her little daughter, who have spent the summer at Mountain Lake Park, returned home yesterday.

SOCIAL SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

Rosemont, the beautiful new quarters of the Washington Outing Club, was the scene of much enjoyment Wednesday night, the occasion being a lawn concert and dance given for the members of the club.

The Syracuse Club, an association of young men in East Washington, and a number of their young lady friends were tendered a handsome reception on Wednesday night by Mr. Ed. Smith at the residence of Mrs. C. C. Wilkinson, No. 229 Ninth street southwest.

A programme of vocal and instrumental music and recitations, in which nearly all took part, was delightfully rendered.

Gen. Vasey, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, who was so ill when he left here for Nova Scotia, was very much improved while there, owing to the severely cold climate. Since his stay at Fort-Resort, Mass., his health has been completely restored.

An engagement lately announced is of C. J. Rolfe, son of Dr. Rolfe, the Shakespearean scholar, of Cambridge, to Miss Josephine Jefferson, a granddaughter of Joseph Jefferson, of the theatre.

The Misses Price, of Philadelphia, are visiting their cousin, Alexander E. Baill, of No. 1643 Thirtieth street, N.W. Baill is at home to his friends on Friday evenings.

Prof. Harry King and his daughter, Miss Annetta King, have left for a four-hour tour to the West and to visit Judge Lamoreaux's home in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Charles Carroll, a granddaughter of the historian, Bancroft, is the guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Royal Phelps Carroll, at Newport.

Miss Helen Nye, who has been visiting Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Detrick, of Kensington, has returned to the city.

Chief Justice Fuller and family have been spending several days at Camden, Me., but are now at Somerville.

Mrs. W. H. Daniels and Miss Maria Proctor are visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lashburn, of Falls Church.

Among the latest arrivals at Marlhead, in Europe, are Mrs. Hope, Mr. G. Slater, and Mrs. Mary G. Slater.

Mrs. Sylvester L. Bates and Miss Rena Bates are visiting friends at Falls Church.

Mrs. Q. W. Hurley and family have opened their entrance at Colonial Beach.

Mr. John Hurt and family are now in Paris. Henry Koudrup and R. Quay are in Paris, also, at the city.

It was learned last night that it was determined to hold a special meeting of the committee of the Beneficial Endowment Association, in connection with the annual meeting of the association, at the city of Washington, on September 1st.

The Beneficial Endowment Association, which has been organized for the purpose of providing for the education of the children of the members of the association, is now in the city of Washington, and is preparing for the annual meeting of the association, at the city of Washington, on September 1st.

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